

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mark Richard Shaw, et al.

Serial No.: 09/652,097

Filed: August 31, 2000

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MODEL BASED  
SHROUDED BELLOWS STIFFNESS  
DETERMINATIONS

:

: Art Unit: 2123

:

: Examiner: Stevens, Thomas H.

:

:

:

:

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

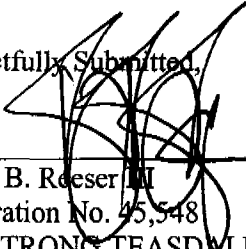
Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

The following comments are in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowability dated June 2, 2006.

Applicants believe that the Statement of Reasons for Allowance is improper as reasons for allowance are only warranted in instances in which the record of the prosecution as a whole does not make clear the Examiner's reasons for allowing a claim or claims (see 37 CFR §1.104(e)). In the present case, Applicants believe the record as a whole does make the reasons for allowance clear and therefore no statement by the Examiner is necessary or warranted. Furthermore, Applicants do not necessarily agree with each statement in the reasons for allowance and do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's interpretation of the teachings of the cited art.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Robert B. Reeser III  
Registration No. 45,548  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070